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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, AF/SPG

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [EG](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: SUDAN: ARAB LEAGUE, EGYPT ON ICC INDICTMENTS

Classified by Minister Counselor for Economic and Political Affairs William R. Stewart for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Arab League Secretariat Advisor for African Affairs Zeid Sabban told us on July 15 that Secretary General (SYG) Amre Moussa had come to a "mutual understanding" with United Nations (UN) SYG Ban Ki-Moon and African Union (AU) Commission Chairperson Jean Ping in Paris July 14 regarding the International Criminal Court's (ICC) indictment of Sudanese President Bashir. Specifically, he said that the secretariat's preferred position tracks with recent UN and AU statements, in which the UN emphasized that the ICC has no relation to UN peacekeeping and humanitarian activities in Sudan and the AU warned that an ICC indictment would jeopardize peace efforts in Darfur. Sabban noted that the Sudanese government wants to work toward peace in Darfur and that "we can't sacrifice peace for justice," and confirmed press reports that the Arab League will have an emergency ministerial on this issue on July 19.

¶2. (SBU) Separately, Egyptian Presidential Spokesman Soliman Awwad said that President Mubarak stressed to UN SYG Ban in Paris on July 14 that the ICC indictment represents an "escalation" that would hurt negotiations between Khartoum and Darfur rebels, according to international press. Separately on July 14, the Arab Affairs Committee of Egypt's People's Assembly underlined the "importance of expressing Arab support towards Sudan" during the upcoming Arab League ministerial, warning that the ICC decision "raises many legal question marks" and would complicate peace in Darfur and between north and south Sudan. MFA Cabinet Advisor for African Affairs Ahmed Abu Zeid told us on July 15 that the MFA would issue a statement on the ICC indictments later that day.  
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